

Intimations.

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

SELECTIONS FROM OUR LIST OF WINES AND SPIRITS.

WE beg to invite careful attention to the following list of WINES & SPIRITS, for we have succeeded in combining purity and excellence of quality with moderate prices.

BRANDY.

	Per Bottle	Per Dozen
OLD PALE COGNAC, O.P.	\$1.00	\$12.00
OLD PALE COGNAC, V.O.P.	1.20	14.40
AN OLD LIQUEUR COGNAC, O.L.	1.50	18.00
THE FINEST LIQUEUR COGNAC, 20 years old, V.O.L.	2.00	24.00

WHISKY.

	Per Bottle	Per Dozen
SCOTCH—A mellow old whisky...	0.75	9.00
F.O.S.—A blend of the finest whiskies produced in Scotland, matured in Sherry wood...	1.00	12.00
Liqueur—A very rare old Scotch whisky. Square bottle	1.00	12.00
IRISH—John Jameson's...	0.80	9.60
AMERICAN—Genuine old Bourbon	1.00	12.00
GIN.		
GENEVA A.V.H.—15 large bottles in case	0.50	6.00
KEY BRAND GENEVA—Finest procurable	0.60	7.20
OLD TOM	0.45	5.40

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & CO., LD.,
Victoria Dispensary,
Hongkong,
Hongkong, 1st March, 1893.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.



CHEMISTS BY APPOINTMENT.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED WATERS.

OUR NEW FACTORY has been recently refitted with automatic Steam Machinery of the latest and most approved kind, and we are well able to compete in quality with the best English makers.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

"BOMBAY SODAS."

We continue to supply large bottles as heretofore, *Free of Extra Charge*, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them to the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS, whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

For COAST PORTS, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Emplies when received in good condition. Counterfoil Order Books supplied free on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is "DISPENSARY, HONGKONG." And all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always kept ready in Stock—

PURE AERATED WATER
SODA WATER
LEMONADE
POTASH WATER
SELTZER WATER
LITHIA WATER
SARSAPARILLA WATER
TONIC WATER
LEMON SQUASH
GINGER ALE
RASPBERRYADE
GINGERADE

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Waters, as such Bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
The Hongkong Dispensary, Hongkong.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SUBSCRIBERS TO "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY REMINDED THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1893.

TELEGRAMS.

UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.

LONDON, March 23rd.

Oxford won by a length.

ACCIDENT TO THE "UNDAUNTED."

H.M.S. *Undaunted*, of the Mediterranean Fleet, Captain Lord Charles Beresford, struck a rock after leaving Alexandria; but was floated off and returned to port for repairs.

PARISH GOVERNMENT.

The Right Honorable Henry H. Fowler introduced a Bill creating a Parish Council, with large powers, in every parish having a population of three hundred inhabitants.

THE PHILIPPINES.

MADRID, March 17th.
St. Blanco y Esquivel, Governor-elect of the Philippines, has arrived here from Barcelona.

and after interviews with the Queen and principal ministers, will sail from Barcelona for Manila on Good Friday.
The Philippine tariff is still under consideration.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A MASS of interesting matter unavoidably held over.

At Pangasinan (Luzon) on the 20th inst., 700 houses were destroyed by fire—cause unknown.

"THE Late Lamented" at the Theatre Royal, tonight. His Excellency the Governor and the *Elite* of the colony will be present.

The French frigate *Trochu*, Capt. B. A. Brette, with Admiral Wismann on board, left Amoy for Shanghai on the 15th inst.

In Germany "aluminium cravats" are now on sale. They are advertised as feather-light, silver-white wash goods that will wear forever.

Young Hongkong—"What is piller, papa?" "Is a D.D. It is charging \$1 for 8 cents' worth of pills my son. It is a very lucrative business."

Solter—"Moi, fraulein, I love you!" Rich Young Lady (pointing with her fan to her father)—"Excuse me, yonder is my business manager."

"Your patient is somewhat irritable this morning, Doctor," said the nurse. "Yes. He is more of an impatient than a patient," replied the Doctor.

"Why" asked the society wife, "do you persist in using that absurd nickname 'dickie'?" "Because," replied her husband, "you are so comically in the swim."

We regret to learn that the latest fad of the police authorities has turned out a dismal failure—the military sergeant-major brought out a fortnight ago has left the force, by request.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s Royal mail steamer *Empress of China*, Capt. R. Archibald, from Vancouver, arrived at Nagasaki, and left at 1 p.m. to-day for this port, via Shanghai.

We are informed by the agents (Messrs. Dodwell, Carill & Co.) that the "Shire" Line steamer *Carnegie* has left Singapore yesterday for this port, and is due on or about the 30th inst.

The Charbonnages "brick-brac" factory at Kowloon is rapidly nearing completion under the able supervision of Mr. Plant, and will probably be in actual working within three weeks.

During the past year 260 miles of railroad are stated to have been opened for traffic in Spain, while thirty-five concessions for new lines, aggregating 370 miles more, were granted to the promoters.

A REGULAR meeting of the Ethen Mark Lodge, No. 264, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, on Thursday the 30th instant, at 8.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

A YOUNG American woman, who claims to have spent several years in the harem of the Sultan, says that among the seven "beauties" in that gorgeous abode of bliss, four were American, two English, four French and six Russian.

At the Magistracy this morning three of the witnesses in the recent Green Island "piracy" case were brought up on a charge of assault with intent to rob. A fourth is in hospital. The case was adjourned for a week.

BOTH AGREEED.

"I long to get a shirt that fits." He cried out with a sigh. And then his wife joined in with him. And murmured: "So do I."

ON the 8th inst. a fire broke out in Tambo, Saigon, near a rice mill of Deles Freres. Before the flames were mastered, a hundred and fifty Chinese dwellings were destroyed. A child six months old, whose father was busy rescuing his property was burnt to death.

His Maternal Parent—I am sorry, Willie [whack], to have to do this. It [whack] hurts me a great deal [whack] worse than it hurts you! Willie (wriggling and shrieking)—No, it doesn't! You've got a globe on!

Berlin Blet—You ought to see de crowd at our club every morning early. Old Soak—Crowd in the early morning? What for? Berlin Blet—You see we sell de stale beer for two cents and de boys don't want to get left!

AT the Magistracy this afternoon Capt. Hastings, R.N., held an inquiry into the circumstances connected with the fire at Kennedy-town, early on Wednesday morning (last night). Nothing suspicious was revealed in the evidence, and the premises were released from surveillance.

Ben Jonson—You missed a big thing, Bill, when you didn't snap up Walter Raleigh as a star, after he laid his cloak under the Queen's feet. Wm. Shakespeare—I shouldn't wonder, Ben! I'm so confoundedly modest and retiring that I'm afraid my epitaph will be the only undisturbed record I leave.—Puck.

THERE was a great deal of twaddle talked at the meeting of the "Job Lots" last night on the question "What does Hongkong want?" As a matter of fact, Hongkong is mostly in need of a little sense. Given hard, solid, matter-of-fact commonsense, and the colony would at once proceed to hang a few of its leading lights, put some others in goal, and chase the rest of the bugbears away from the East.

AGAIN we ask what is this disease that is coming upon us? A writer in our esteemed contemporary the *Christian* makes as follows:—"In Whitehall, opposite the Horse Guards, is a statue of the Queen, subscribed for as a Jubilee gift for Hongkong. I should like to ask what it is to commemorate? It is fifty years of British rule in that island," cried "for the purpose of celebrating ships," but, used alas! for the purposes of "a huge opium warehouse," then do trust the statue will remain where it is till it is sent out to commemorate the abolition of the opium trade, and as the island was ceded in 1842, let us trust that ere 1893 closes, a Jubilee will be proclaimed, and British released from being the chief factor in the opium slavery of the East, and her share in this, only to be remembered as such by its abolition in 1895." The committee are indeed wise to keep the statue where it is. Were it to be landed here just now we would give it twenty-four hours to find its way into the snuffing-pots of enterprising politicians. Bullion is so scarce!

By the transport *Shamrock*, which left Hongkong on the 18th inst. for France, there were sent to military prisoners, among whom was a sergeant named Heston, condemned to death by court-martial at Hanoi for having run away in sight of the enemy. His sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life.

THE *Progrès de Saigon* of the 18th inst. says—"This morning the captain of the *Monah*, and the headman of the *Donat* (in collision recently with fatal results) appeared at the police court, where an inquiry was held in reference to their conduct. We refrain from publishing the proceedings, in order to avoid any charge of attempting to influence the decision, which will be given on the 21st." *Flat justice, rust circulate!*

ENGLISH society, according to a London correspondent, is raising a national lament because the men no longer dance. Hostesses have for a long time been put off their wits' end to secure partners for young women at balls and dancing parties. Now the situation is worse than ever, and remedies are being eagerly sought. The suggestion is publicly discussed that a dancing agency be established similar to such institutions in Paris and Berlin. Hired guests armed with guarantees of fitness and respectability, would appear at the proper hour, warranted to dance every number on the card and not give more than three dances to any young woman. Some such plan seems to be the only hope of saving the art of dancing in England.

"CLARA BELLE" once more—"Embracing will become a new art with the increasing of the Empire gown. Lovers have grown accustomed to the unyielding circle of the corseted waist. They have not complained. In fact, they have thought, when they sat in bliss, their girl within the clasp of their protected embrace, that they were having all they could expect in the way of a good time. The Empire gown will give them more. They will feel the gentle yielding of an untrammelled waist. Just how they are going to like it they only know. Mybye, a word of advice may come in here. For one thing, the girl is not going to be half so hard to manage as she used to be. She will be able to bend as a willow. Another thing, she really could not put her arms about a man's neck, as, to do her justice, she often wished to, because, you see, her light waist and sleeves would not allow it. Men have thought her cold and awkward. Well, she won't be henceforth."

THE New York Sun gives a list of monarchs retired from business:—There have been a good many abdications or depositions by sovereigns since 1860. Francis II. of Naples was deposed October 21, 1860, but has never abdicated; his cousin, Isabella II. of Spain, was deposed in 1868, and abdicated June 25, 1870, in favor of her son, Alfonso XII. Menelik II. of Abyssinia, King of Greece, was deposed October 23, 1869; in 1866 Alexander Cossa, Prince of Romania, abdicated; on September 4, 1871, Napoleon III. Emperor of the French, was retired from business by Act of the National Assembly; on February 11, 1871, Amadeo, who had been chosen King of Spain by the Cortes in 1869, gave up his throne and retired to Italy. Abdul Aziz, Sultan of Turkey, was deposed "between two acts" May 29, 1876; and his successor, Murad V, was deposed August 31, 1876. Yakub Khan, Amir of Afghanistan, abdicated in October, 1879; and Ismail Pasha, Khedive of Egypt, was deposed June 26, 1879; Alexander, Prince of Bulgaria, abdicated on September 7, 1886; President Grévy of France, abdicated December 1, 1887; Pedro II, Emperor of Brazil, was deposed, and the next day abdicated, and on March 6, 1889, King Milan of Serbia abdicated his throne; he is the latest monarch retired from trade.

A LAWYER'S VALENTINE.

This year of 1893, St. Valentine's the date. Now this indelicate witnesseth: To her I love the best I give, to have and hold forever.

To her I love the best I give, to have and hold forever. To her I love the best I give, to have and hold forever. To her I love the best I give, to have and hold forever.

But let the grantee in this deed should ever wish to alienate. To others, from here, if the whole, or any part of this estate, Unless the first shall have obtained from the said grantor his permission. And do the same with his consent, now herefore.

This express condition, In unto this said gift attached, That if she, any part of this. Conveyed estate, however small, shall give away, she shall forfeit this gift.

To the said grantee in this deed, unless the said grantor relents. But if he does not, he may claim the penalty for each offence.

And the said grantor herein named, in testimony of his love, Has set hereto his hand and seal, the day and year first named above.

CHARBONNAGES.

We are glad to learn that the financial difficulties which for some time past have come to harass the working of the coal-mines at Hongkong, are at last being overcome. In a day or two we hope to be in a position to give reliable assurances to our readers that the promoters of this great enterprise, the success of which so materially affects the commercial prosperity of Hongkong, are in a position to commence active operations on a large scale.

"THE LATE LAMENTED"

AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

Although the weather was anything but favorable, the capital programme advertised by the popular London Lyric Company drew a large audience to the Theatre Royal, City Hall, last night, and those who faced the climatic discomforts which are by no means usual in Hongkong at this time of year, were fully repaid by a most enjoyable entertainment, the *Chorus de Parisiens* was the featured comedy. "The Late Lamented," supplemented by a "variety show," which included *Ta-ra-boom-de-ay* and the seductive *Serpentine Dance*. "The Late Lamented," an adaptation from a farce by the late M. de Noilly, was first produced at the St. James Theatre, London, by Mrs. John Wood, and afterwards had a most successful run at the Strand under Mr. Willie Edgely's management. It was originally played in three acts, but last night the second and third acts were presented as one, which may or may not have been an improvement. The title of the piece suggests a *mot*, *Nicholson*. "The Late Lamented" is the usual course of events taken in a trice, amongst the angels, and his charming wife, also in the usual course of events—had married Mr. *Stewart Cross*. She devoted a great deal of her precious time in singing and shedding tears for her departed first, her happy second, and an opportunity of "darning Nicholson." Then alive, *Nicholson* was a paragon of virtue as he

but it so happened that he owned large properties in Cyprus, which necessitated his spending six months every year in that highly favored island. And as his wife was so afraid of the sea voyage that she always allowed him to go alone, it is not surprising that he had a second wife in his foreign home. When he died complications naturally arose. Both wives got into the same, and of course came to live in the same mansions in London. And then the fun began. We need not go into further details, as the foregoing outline sufficiently suggests the probable complications; but would strongly recommend all those who are able to appreciate a skilful piece of dramatic construction, admirably acted, to go to the City Hall to-night and second hear for themselves.

That dainty young actress, Miss Marie Blin, as *Mrs. Stewart Cross*, widow of "The Late Lamented," was admirable in every way; she looked charming, and in the various phases of character depicted, acted to the life. Miss Blin has not been seen to such advantage since the Company's appearance in this colony. Miss M. Greor as *Mrs. Richard Webb*, otherwise "Flirty," second wife of the departed Nicholson, also did capital work; the impersonation is not a heavy one, but the requirements were done full justice to. Mr. Henry Kins had a congenial part in the deluded *John*, but suspicious "hubby." *Mr. Stewart Cross*, and his needless to say that this talented comedian never missed a point. His bye-play throughout was excellent. There is a sameness in Mr. E. Ferguson's impersonations which is absolutely tantalizing; his *Mr. Richard Webb* last night might have been any one of the characters he has previously represented. No variety, no change; the same eternal eye-glass, the same idiotic drawl, the same vacant stare. And yet this gentleman ought to do much better; he has a good stage presence, he is fairly well acquainted with the business, he is a pleasant fellow, and possesses a pleasant voice. Apparently he wants to let him know—and doesn't know how. *Mr. Marshall* ("Joe") Mr. Graham Stewart was as easy and natural as if he had been the gillie Major in real life; he had few opportunities of making special points, but as a whole the impersonation was a most creditable one. It gives us pleasure to be able to heartily commend the *Parker* of Mr. Fulton Miller; as the old servant of the *Nicholson*, Mr. Miller gave a character sketch which showed that he can do valuable work when the opportunity offers. The minor characters call for no special remark but all were efficiently filled.

The comedy was played in one set, and a rather dry one it must be confessed; but under all circumstances it would perhaps be unreasonable to expect anything much better. There was no hitch throughout the performance, and the stage management left nothing to be desired. The applause was almost continuous and at the end of each act there was a most cordial recall.

The variety business started with Mr. D. C. Smith, who played a comic parody on the well-known ballad "That is love" with much success, and secured a hearty encore. Miss Vivienne Dagmar's "Hill boys" was also a success, but artistically it was not a high commendation. Mr. Cecil Butt was most enthusiastically applauded for about the worst rendering of the "Death of Nelson" it has ever been our lot to listen to. Applause is cheap; but we would strongly advise Mr. Butt, before he again attempts to sing before an educated Hongkong audience what he truly National Song, to make himself acquainted with the words of what is a national record, one of the grandest events in British history, and to get somewhere within measurable distance of music that is well known. Mr. Henry Kins was quite out of his element in the so-called comic rendition of that hoary-headed cheviot which winds up with the interesting information that "Sarah minds my clothes, when I go bathing;" and we allow Wally, the Irish comedian, and "Miss Mulligan's Home-made Pie" to vanish to the great beyond without comment. That sort of thing from our friends the Stanley Aulwicks might be tolerated; but with a high-class comedy company the line has to be drawn somewhere; and we draw it at "Sarah minds my clothes" and "Miss Mulligan's home-made pie."

Miss Marie Blin again made a great hit in "Ta-ra-boom-de-ay," and this young lady's series of most successful performances in this particular act only goes to show what talent and art combined can do. In her exhibition of graceful gyrations Miss Blin certainly and emboldened herself, but there is not a scintilla of anything even approaching the indecent in her rendering from beginning to end. It must not be understood that we claim "Ta-ra-boom-de-ay" to be high art; but we do say that, as illustrated by Miss Marie Blin, it is a performance at once harmless, unique, and attractive. And we are certain that this view will be all but universally adopted. Miss Vivienne Dagmar's *Serpentine Dance*, most gracefully performed, was very warmly received, and this brought a most enjoyable extemporaneous to a satisfactory conclusion.

To-night "The Late Lamented" will be repeated, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Robinson, Mr. General Digby Barker, and other distinguished persons, and no doubt there will be a large gathering of the official element. To-morrow the attractive musical comedy "My Sweetheart" will be produced.

TONKIN COAL.

In the course of a recent visit to Tonkin, M. Ernest Carnot, an expert civil and mining engineer, son of the President of the French republic, made a close inspection of the coal workings at Hongkong and Kébao, on which he has been long and interesting article in the *Revue Scientifique*, to the following effect:—

The time is passed for Tonkin to be a mere object of violent polemics, daily blackened and calumniated. To-day, most of her worst enemies have to yield to the convincing facts. If any body still persists in doubting the positive reports already received, he requires confirmation from the words of King Leopold of Belgium to a French visitor at Brussels—"You see the world." Better informed even than many of ourselves, the English have not been slow, as we shall see later, to invest heavily in the colony.

Tonkin is by no means the postiferous and unproductive country which people obstinately persuade themselves it is. On the contrary, it is one of the richest countries in the world. Though the object of this article is to discuss especially the coal deposits of our great colony, we will glance briefly at some of her other natural resources.

[Rice, maize, sugar-cane, potatoes, sesame, peanuts, anise, cotton, silk, mulberry, transference, tobacco, etc.] The arable land, the timber of all kinds, gold, silver, iron, lead, copper, tin, zinc, antimony. Tonkinese labourers, industrious, intelligent, and willing. Paper, lacquer, printing, smelting and other works successful. Climate simply that of a health resort for the Far East.

These, then, are the chief resources and characteristics of Tonkin. It is the English of Hongkong who have proved them to us and opened up for us our own magnificent property. Without them, Hongkong would never have been exploited but for Hongkong's example. We propose to give some account of the operations which we saw during a few days in the early part of 1893. We will not enter into the geology of the region, nor a description of its situation; suffice to say that the mines are almost on the sea shore, a few hours steam from Haiphong, in well-wooded country, and admirably situated in every way for coal mining.

The Hongkong Island concession was granted to M. Bayer-Chauffour on May 20th, 1887. The Company was floated in February, 1889, almost exclusively with English capital. In Hongkong, though it has a French name, the "Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin," and has to be managed by a council with a French majority and must only employ French servants. The original capital of four million (francs) has been since increased.

At Hongkong the period of initial operations may be considered past. At the present day, at Nagasaki, a metre-gauge railway conveys the produce from the mouths of the principal galleries to the screening grounds, now almost complete, and from there on to the sea, where the largest steamers can come right alongside.

Though many readers might be interested, we will not go through all the galleries in detail, but only mention the principal beds, with a few words as to the mode of working them and their estimated capacity. The concession covers 15,000 hectares (say fifty square miles) and is divided into three sections: Hongkong, Haïou and Campha. Operations have been centred at Nagasaki in the first section, Haïou in the second, and the third is undeveloped as yet. Nagasaki covers 15 distinct seams, have been located, with a barren space of 25 metres between the upper and the lower ones. The upper seams, of course, being more exposed, were found to be of inferior quality, and have been given up. In the lower section, the three first seams opened (the Bayer-Chauffour seam, the Chatter seam, and the Marmottan seam) have been proved to extend over 1,400 metres in area, with great regularity. The two first named are very similar—5 to 7 metres thick, brilliant black, very hard, and very pure all through; here lie at an angle of 25 deg. Galleries have been driven into each, varying from 5 to 28 metres in length, to ascertain the extent of the deposit. Shuts have been sunk from the top to meet them. Trucks of coal are drawn along the galleries and emptied directly into the large cars on the railway outside. It may be safely estimated that the coal immediately in sight here cannot be less than 100,000 tons. The Marmottan seam is only two metres thick, of the same quality as the other two, and is reached by a shaft, quite close to the other two, and is below sea level, this one 30 metres, but no water has yet found its way in. Here, at the lowest estimate, there must be 30,000 tons of splendid coal. The last cut into Nagasaki therefore can be relied on for 40,000 tons even if there is no more behind what is now exposed to view; and could thus put out 200 tons a day or 5,000 a month for over two years. In January, 1892, the actual daily output was about 150 tons. This is not all; when the Keatner pit (also at Nagasaki) is finished, 30 times more at least will be ready for cutting. The timbering and other work costs next to nothing; 25 cents a day for the best labour, which is high pay for these people; the dollar being about 3.60 f.

But the most prodigious deposit of coal in Tonkin is at Haïou, about ten miles from Hongkong, with which it will soon be connected by a metre-gauge line. There is a seam 40 metres in thickness, and another 11 metres thick, 25 metres higher up the hillside. The surface soil is soft and easy to work, and some 17 metres in depth. At the foot of the hill is a swamp, which will be reclaimed as this surface soil is removed, there will then be five million tons of coal laid bare.

Calculating the proportion of shale and deteriorated coal, and given the cost of cutting at 20 cents per cubic yard, the cost ought to be well within a dollar per ton at Haïou. The removal of the top soil and filling of the swamp in order to carry the railway to Haïou is rapidly progressing, and after that is completed the output will proceed steadily with no other limit than the requirements of the market. The quality of coal is no whit inferior to Nagasaki. In view of the immense richness of the property, far surpassing the most sanguine expectations (and we have spoken only of a part of the concession) nobody could well hesitate to sink a large amount of money in establishing plant and material on an appropriate scale, nor complain that the outlay in this direction has been extravagant.

The railway connecting Hongkong port with Nagasaki on the one hand, at five kilometres distance, and with Haïou on the other, will carry the coal to the screening ground, where less than 1,000 tons a day can be passed through. Further, there are workshops, blacksmiths' shops, carpenters' shops, etc., put up by M. Durand, the general manager, who proposes to construct most of the rolling-stock on the spot. A large wharf, 85 metres long, 16 metres wide, and with 6 metres depth of water alongside, is being put up, and will be fitted with appliances for loading steamers with all dispatch. There is also splendid accommodation for the staff and visitors, reading rooms for the European employees, etc.

The island of Kébao, about 20,000 hectares in extent, was conceded absolutely to M. Jean Dupuis in 1888. The company, purely French, was floated in 1889, with a capital of 200,000 francs, and a half million of francs. The work has been conducted on such an economical scale that up to the time of this visit (1892) the original funds had sufficed for all purposes, and the era of production was close at hand. Operations were not on such a magnificent scale as at Hongkong, but everything was done steadily and carefully, and there are now 8 kilometres of galleries in working order. There are two centres near the Kébao and Caïlai rivers. Though 100 tons per day can now be turned out, the borings have only been experimental hitherto. At Kébao, the exploitation of the coal beds is all done by a single shaft, commenced in January, 1891, and sank about 120 metres. A sloping gallery follows the course of the seam, at an angle of 30 deg., from the surface to meet the foot of the shaft, from which galleries branch off in every direction. There are some two and a half millions of tons ready to hand at this spot. At Caïlai a deep cut was made through the hill, exposing five workable seams, from 2 to 3 metres thick. In each there is a gallery or tunnel opening on the railway. Here there must be half a million tons of excellent coal uncovered. Thus on only a twentieth part of the concession three million tons of coal are now in view. Screening plant will be laid down near the Kébao pit-head. At the time of this visit, the screening was temporarily arranged near the jetty where lighters are loaded for Haiphong. The troubles at Kébao as that deep-draught vessels cannot get near. The harbour works had to go in for costly repairs. A half million of francs had to be spent on the island, 35 kilometres away. A railway is being laid down by the manager, M. Portal, to connect this port with the mines. Kébao coal is better

than Hongkong, and is used by all the war vessels on the Tonkin station, and the local boats of the Messageries Maritimes.

And here we will conclude our review of the Tonkin coalfields; outside of Hongkong and Kébao there is nothing much to describe. Dongtrien is away up in the heart of the hill country, wild and inaccessible. As for Tourane and Nangson, they may be all right and very good, but we simply could not get there, on account of the shallows in the river, which not even a flat-bottomed sampan could negotiate at that time of the year; and there is no other way but by the river. Even the port itself is only open for very small steam launches.

Tonkin is, as we have shown, a splendid field for great enterprises. May the success of the pioneers attract more of our countrymen with their money! France will be grateful to them for their services, and we have no fear of erring when we predict a glorious success to follow!

THE REV. DOBBIE ON "DRINK."

We beg to acknowledge receipt of a work entitled "The Drink Traffic," as it affects our great cities," by the Rev. R. W. Dobbie, of Glasgow, in 74 pages, with a few coloured cover illustrations of the wildest fit of Jim-Jams. The book is in its fifth edition, and has been "laid before her Majesty the Queen" though there is no record as to whether she has since reformed. The author takes the usual violently extreme attitude—"so many people die who are not teetotalers, therefore alcohol must be abolished." The text is developed with great energy, in language of far too pronounced "ranting" style; figures are marshalled in great solid blocks, through which the fallacies of non-observation show glaringly. For instance, the expense of the nation in alcohol is put down at £1,000,000,000; and it is wildly urged that if the trade were abolished, the nation would *ipso facto* have £200,000,000 more money than it now has. Further, all who at present make their living out of this sum are roundly abused; the honest farmer who grows barley is a fiend of hell; the engineer who constructs machinery is an agent of the devil; even the glass-blower ought to be hanged for making bottles. Another of the absurd theories is that the drink traffic is removable by Act of Parliament; also that human nature will cease to contain elements of evil if only this one article of diet is taken away—that the fools will become wise, and the lazy industrious, and everybody will go to church and money for foreign missions. The Licence Inebriate Corporation is held up for denunciation, because it takes risks, as any company would. There is a chapter on Saturday night scenes in Glasgow, written with great spirit; no doubt Saturday night is a terrible thing—why not abolish it and have only six days in the week? As far as that goes, there are infinitely worse scenes in a Chinese city any day of the week, though the Chinese are invariably temperate as regards alcohol, which they hardly know as a nation; it is simply impossible to make human nature altogether lovely, and if one form of evil is checked, others must spring up. The author goes on to say "The cry just now is over-production; it should be over-consumption of liquor;" and he urges that if the alcohol industry were suppressed the labour market would cease to be overstocked! He actually states that in centres where drink cannot be got there are no strikes; probably the only place on earth where alcohol is practically never in evidence is China—and how about

